

## II. SPECIFICATION AMENDMENTS

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 8, line 1 through page 9, line 3 as rewritten below:

In the example of embodiment of Figures 1 and 2, the one or more locking units 18 of sluice device 17 is or are formed at floor 24 of housing 21, which here forms an intermediate wall or ceiling of housings 16 and 21, provided directly above the arrangement of the one or more lifting devices 47. The locking unit 18 has a rotating support 61, on which can be tightly seated the lower edge 62 of a hood 64 of each cassette box 13. For the sluice-type introduction of substrate cassette 12 into the ultraclean workroom 15, the bottom ~~[[6]]~~63 of the cassette, which upon placement of the cassette box 13 on the locking unit 18 forms a door to the sluice device 17, is unlocked from hood 64 of cassette box 13, removed by rod 48 of lifting device 47, and cassette ~~[[box 13]]~~ 12 is lowered to the level of manipulating device 51, so that substrates 11 of cassette 12 can be manipulated. If several lifting devices 47 are provided in the case of several locking units 48 and thus several substrate cassettes 12 are to be manipulated simultaneously or sequentially within the ultraclean workspace 15, the individual substrate cassettes 12 can be newly loaded in a different way, so that new batches can be made up. A substrate cassette 12 is put back into its cassette box 13 in the appropriate reverse manner by means of lifting device 47, whereupon after locking cassette bottom 63 with hood 64, cassette box 13 can be introduced by means of manipulating device 31 from locking unit 18 to a storage space 28, 29 or into input/output openings 22, 23.